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THE CRITIC,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

WASHINGTON, MAY 26, 1890.

WE DOUBT IT.

According to the New York Times

the Panama Canal project is dead.

We doubt it. So long as De Lesseps lives

and France continues to produce

credulity, the canal retains a fighting

chance.

BOLD BEN BUTTERWORTH.

Mr. Benjamin Butterworth, the anti-

protectionist by word of mouth, is a

spontaneous talker and a hair-trigger

thinker. The other day, in the House,

he thought like lightning and went off

like dynamite on the tariff question.

He made a loud report, but when the

vote on the McKinley protection bill

in sections was called, the bold Ben-

jamin went off, deliberately and silently,

into the House cloakroom and thought,

slowly, for awhile.

A MAID UNDISMAYED.

Miss Willard, petticoated and defiant

as usual, declares that the "original

package" decision, which has given

consolation, her joy, whisky, hilarity,

and several other cheerful and de-

lightening things to the personal-liberty

people of the prohibition States, cannot

be relied upon as a bulwark and defense

against the assaults of the prohibition-

ists.

Indeed, we may say, it is true that this

maiden, more tough than toughish, is in no wise

dismayed.

For she states, with set lips and the primest

prediction,

That the "original package" Supreme Court

decision

Has made prohibition defeat,

A Hercules, a Samson, a giant.

Ah, brave, a national theme—

The national spirit with big N—

With flesh, blood and lots of nerve tissue.

And 'twill 'ring and 'em again!

THE CRITIC.

THE CRITIC, under its present

management, will not belie its name, defined

as one who passes judgment upon man-

ners, morals and the like. But it will

endeavor to be neither a cavalier nor a

carper. And it will not indulge in too

wide distinctions; or be inclined to find

fault; or to be unreasonably fastidious;

or to be captious; or to be unduly se-

vere in judgment. Occasionally, no

doubt, we shall be bound in duty to be

a harsh examiner or judge. Often we

shall censure, and frequently we shall

not be enabled to characterize our dis-

cussion of public questions with desir-

able thoroughness and a reference to

principles, "as becomes a critic"; but

we shall endeavor, at least, to make

THE CRITIC, as a general rule, a genial

fault-finder, a judge without malice, and

a welcome visitor to those people who

enjoy pleasant companionship and fair

play in all things, and hate shams and

detest hypocrisy.

And, in good time, clad in a new

dress from top to toe, THE CRITIC will

take its place among the handsomest as

well as among the brightest and best of

the journals of the day.

MANY IN ONE.

In the memorial sermon, made yester-

day by Rev. Dr. Naylor of the Ham-

lin Church to the Grand Army of the Re-

public, Department of the Potomac, that

very good man said: "Several, now,—a

fact now, before it was a senti-

In advocacy he always makes the better

appear to be the weaker reason, or else

blows it forever from the eyes of every

man in the world by piling upon it a

mountain, a whole Rocky Mountain

of sterile sentences. He is a man whose

temper runs away with him every time

he opens his mouth to say anything.

Concerning some public matters he is

well above his day and generation, but

unless he confines in silence upon

every question on the right side of

which his thoughts run, he is sure to

exhibit himself as a stumbling weak-

ling, and the cause he advocates in a

light that does not show its merits, but

brings out into bold relief all of its

weak points, and makes it appear to be

ridiculous.

There are in the world many worse

men than Senator Blair. In fact, there

are not many men, if any, who are

honest. But no other man has a

more foolish mouth than Blair. In a month

owned by Blair—and owned, it may be

said to the surprise of some people's

without shame, and indeed with a cer-

tain kind of unaccountable pride!

THE REFORMING COMMISSIONER

ROBERT.

The Engineer Commissioner of the

District, Colonel Robert, is wearing

with pride the Congressional Church

meeting-bonnet of praise of his official

action as a child among the downfallen

who drink bad whisky, stale beer, and

worse wine of nights in out-of-the-way

places of iniquity. The Colonel Engi-

neer, or the Engineer-Colonel, or the

Engineer-Commissioner-Colonel, proba-

bly deserves the praise that he is

receiving. Really, upon serious con-

sideration of the question, we have

no doubt that he does. In truth, he

has no purpose in view but the good

of the District, the enforcement

of the laws, the reclamation of the

downfallen and the punishment of the

perversely wicked. But will he per-

mit us to say that he luxuriates, as

a practical reformer, in too much brass

band?—that he descends upon the re-

volving wicked with too great a display

of banners?—that there is—not in fact

but in appearance—just a little too

much of the Little Jack Horner

boastfulness in the way he eats

his reform plum-pie in the eye

of the public? No doubt the Com-

missioner is a good man, doing good

work in a good way, and that he de-

serves praise above his almost wicked

partners, Commissioners Douglas and

Hines; but it does seem to THE CRITIC

that it should work in a more subdued

light than the electric glare of the look-

at-all publicity which he has been

lately reforming the slums lately.

THE OWL SUPERSEDED BY CHANTICLEER.

The owl was one of the two birds

which Minerva, the Goddess of Wis-

dom, was partial; and for that reason,

probably, this bird has been the par-

ticular favorite of THE CRITIC. But

the owl is not of unblemished reputa-

tion. It is carnivorous. It has a dis-

agreeable voice. And it gets its liveli-

hood in what is called owl light, be-

cause that is a glimmering or imperfect

light. In short, the owl is a bird of

the night and a bird of prey, and in

Leviticus, as well as in other books

of the Bible, it is denounced as a foul

abomination among fowls. Job also,

and other miserable or complaining

men of the Scriptures, have made other

disparaging remarks about this wise-

looking creature. So, we have be-

come prejudiced against the owl. We

believe it to be a bad bird; and, to be

frank, we believe, also, that the wis-

dom of the owl is all in its eye.

We are compelled, therefore, to take

the owl from THE CRITIC, as the bird

that is emblematic of the paper's mis-

sion; but, in place of the hooding and

screwing-loose of the barn-yard, we

will give to THE CRITIC as its em-

blematic bird the other favorite bird

of Minerva, Chapman's Democratic

rooster, that everglorious, cheery-

fellow, never say die, always ready-for-

fight bird—the bird that has crowed so

often and so loudly over many a Demo-

cratic triumph, and was during all the

dark night of Democratic disaster what

Shakespeare has designated it, the bird

of dawn, and that even now is the

In which they should have taken their

leave of absence, and has paid them

twice—once their full wages, because

they were entitled to leave, and then

their full wages again because they

had worked during the thirty in which

they should have been absent.

As enforced the eight hour and leave-

of absence laws are made to operate to

increase wages, and not, as was intended,

to lower, the enforcement of which

would give to the wage-workers of the

Government time in which to rest and

replenish their wasted energies.

And the eloquent McCann of Mary-

land is dumb, and the Columbia Typo-

graphical Union makes no sign!

THE SPEAKER VERSUS THE

MAN.

Speaker Reed looks like the picture

of a Chinaman on a tea-box, or like a

plump pumpkin with a rattle's rattle

stuck in it for a head, or like Tur-

key as that worthy is represented

in the wood cuts of the original edition

of "Martin Chuzzlewit." He has all the

slyness of Joey Bagstock. He is

tough—tough is Tom Reed—tough and

devilish sly. He has, too, something

of the sickness of Oily Gannon of the

firm of Quirk, Gannon & Snap, and a

good deal of the brutality of Sykes.

But it must be said to his credit that

almost all his bad qualities have grown

from seed planted in the well-manured

soil of his intense partisan hatred. He

is ready in the interest of his party to

do anything, good or bad. In his interest

he would fire the Capitol with the air

of a man doing a patriotic duty, but, in

his own personal interest, he would not

do any, even the most trivial, act of

lawless violence. In the interest of his

party he is ready to do, and actually is

engaged now, at what may be called

Congressional robbery of the Treasury

by appropriation acts, into which crime

enter, in about equal proportions, the

elements of burglary, highwayman-

ship and pocket-picking; but Tom Reed

would not enter the wide open door of

the Treasury and carry off the surplus

for the purpose of enriching himself

personally, even if he could do so with-

out trouble and in the certainty that

the act would never be discovered. He

is probably ambitious to become a criminal

after the fashion of the fool who fired

the Ephesian dome, but to his own en-

richment he never would consent to be a

looter, a traitor or an iconoclast of any

kind. He is a true blue Republican, and

in that phrase is contained a lucid

explanation of all his official tergiversa-

tions and brutalities.

A GREAT MANY profound and ingenious

criticisms have been written concerning

the performance of the Strauss orchestra

from Vienna, and nearly all of them con-

tend to indicate the second act of the

performance. It is, therefore, with the

hesitation that we confess to a sense of

disappointment, after a careful hearing, where

all our predictions were realized favorably.

All that we had heard about the delicacy

and precision of the orchestra's work

was realized in one experience. We dis-

covered the light and airy, the graceful

and irresistible swing of the de-

livery. But there seemed to us a

deficiency in the matter of volume and

emphasis at times. These were not always

noticed. Especially in the composition of

Mr. Richard Strauss, the second act of the

very lightest treatment have been out-

place. But one occasionally encounters

in the works of the elder Johann Strauss, a

passage where the demands are very great

and where the most powerfully dramatic

treatment would be appropriate. A case

in point may be found in the waltz move-

ment which closes the second act of the

Queen's Lace Handkerchief. This figured

on the programme of Sunday night

as "Roses of the South," but it is

more generally known in connection

with the very useful opera we have

named. We venture to say that nobody

who attended last night's performance

intended toward a fellow-Republican

and a member of the Administration. As we

convinced that Mr. Clarkson is much better

formed in the matter of civil service reform

than Mr. Taylor's common sense would per-

mit us to believe. In fact, we are con-

victed that the Assistant Postmaster-Gen-

eral is not alone inverting the facts to suit

his own purpose.

Mr. Clarkson, who is a Mississippi

native, returns to the charge against the

new law and says in this issue of THE

CRITIC, some caustic things, unkind and

intentionally founded on "the eternal rock

of everlasting truth," as good old Deacon

Smith expresses himself. He does more than

that. He becomes a prophet of disaster, and

warns the people of New Orleans that they

must soon be besieged by the Lake

Borgne could try at private expense and

seeing their city cut off from the banks of

the river and go like Mobile to the bottom

of the sea! We tremble for New Orleans,

when we remember that Captain Cowden is

arrested and that "A School Boy," who

was so in an important sense in a recent

way, has transformed himself into an

alarm bell!

It does not appear that the authori-

ties are greatly concerned about the fast

and reckless driving in the streets, con-

cerning which so much complaint has been

made. The driving continues practically

as vicious and dangerous a form as ever,

and the citizen can get no greater protection

than before for the protection of the pe-

destrian. The public, however, have still

some hope in Mr. Thompson of Ohio.

Will he not kindly press the inquiry com-

pleted in his resolution? If the authori-

ties are determined to ignore all ap-

pals of this kind, it will be some comfort

to the people of Washington to know just

who is responsible.

COUNTING THE PEOPLE.

Some of the inquiries to be made by

the Census Enumerators.

In order that the citizens of the Dis-

trict of Columbia may be prepared to

answer or not answer the census enu-

merators, according to the pertinence or

importance of the questions asked, we

print the following circular issued by the

Census Bureau:

The Eleventh Census of the United

States will be taken during the month of

June, 1890. The census enumerators will

begin their work on Monday, June 3, and

will visit every house and ask questions con-

cerning every person and every family in

the United States. The questions that will

be asked are for the name of every person

residing in the United States on the first

day of June, with their sex and age, and

whether white, black, mulatto, quadroon,

octoroon, or Chinese, Japanese, or Indian.

Inquiries will also be made as to the place

of birth of each person, and as to whether

they are single, married, widowed or

divorced, and, if married, whether married

during the census year. The place of birth

of each person, will also be called for, as